(a) the formula adopted by his Ministry to formulate a scheme of merit-cum-means scholarships to students belonging to minority communities and financially backwards in snowbound and far flung areas of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, State-wise; and

(b) the details thereof and the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) A scheme of merit-cum-means based scholarship has been formulated for students belonging to minority communities for technical and professional courses at under-graduate and post-graduate levels. The scheme is awaiting approval of the competent authority.

Welfare facilities to minorities

72. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that minority community people are not being provided SC/ST facilities; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when this benefit is expected to be provided to the minority community persons for their-welfare?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) In June 2006, the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities has been announced which provides for enhancing opportunities for education, equitable share in economic activities and employment; improving the conditions of living of minorities, and wherever possible, earmarking of 15% of targets and outlays under various schemes for minorities. The programme is available on the website of the Ministry at www.minorityaffairs.gov.in

Recommendations of Sachar Committee Report

†73. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has completed the study of Sachar Committee Report;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the number of recommendations of Sachar Committee accepted by Government;

(c) the reasons for not accepting some of its recommendations; and

(d) by when the recommendations which have been accepted would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) The recommendations of the Sachar Committee are being considered by Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Wind power capacity

74. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present capacity of wind power in the country along with per unit cost of power generation;

(b) whether Government have worked out total potential of wind power in the country;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to exceed the wind power generation capacity above the level of the nuclear energy capacity by 2015; and

(d) if so, the action initiated so far to boost this environment friendly power and reduce per unit power generation cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) A total wind power capacity of 6270 MW has been installed in the country as on 31st December, 2006. The average generation cost ranges between Rs. 2.75 to 3.50 per unit depending on the site, wind regimes and infrastructure development cost.

(b) Yes, Sir. A gross wind power potential in the country has been estimated at over 45,000 MW. Major part of the potential, however lies in